

Epiphany Sunday – Cycle C

Theme: We are the Light

First Reading

[IS 60:1-6](#)

Psalm

[PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13](#)

Second Reading

[EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6](#)

Gospel

[MT 2:1-12](#)

Merry Christmas! In today's story from Matthew we hear about the light that drew the magi to Bethlehem. But before Bethlehem, the magi first visited King Herod because naturally the king of Israel should know the meaning of the light. Unfortunately, even though Herod was the leader of the chosen people, Israel he was not able to clearly see and understand the significance of the light. In fact, he was quite unsettled at the thought of losing his "authority", his power.

What did Herod have to fear? We heard from Isaiah that the light, that is the messiah, will overwhelm us with love and mercy and grace that our hearts will swell and overflow. We then heard how the light will radiate from us. We heard from St Paul how we are coheirs and members of the same body of Christ the body of Christ, the light of the world.

The light radiating from us. Sadly when we think of our young people less than 26 years old, they are a generation who have never known a world not at war. They have never experienced economic peace. Before that, we have a generation who were told that growth in the economy, at any cost, would benefit the whole only to see the economic divide widen, the deterioration of the middle class, and the rupture of one false economic bubble after another. We have had the rise of violent extremism. We have had a complete collapse in the sanctity of human life.

Christ was clear that faith, obedience, and corporal acts of mercy are for each person to choose. After all it is our personal choice to follow. It is our personal choice to accept the Will of God. It is our choice to be the light.

Today's story of the Magi is a story of journey. Of a long journey through difficult terrain with dangerous bands of thieves roaming the lands. It is a story of looking up to God rather looking down to earth and its worldly pursuits. Looking forward to what is rather than backward to what was. It is a story of recognizing and gifting the light. Seeing Christ, seeing God in all things rather than what is in it for us. Today's story of the magi, fulfills the prophesy from Isaiah. Radiating the light of Christ rather than the darkness of doubt, self-centeredness, and sin.

So as baptized members of the body of Christ, and many confirmed by the fire of the Holy Spirit, what has happened to the world that whole generations have not known peace and security? What has happened to the world where we have stopped looking up?

Have we become Herod who is only concerned about himself and his own personal power?

Our challenge from this Epiphany Sunday is to not only look for the light but also bring the light. We are called to not only acknowledge the light but also pay that light homage through prayer and worship. We are called to be the light. But how?

If we have each lived out Matthew's corporal acts of mercy; if we have love in our hearts; if we advocate for those with no voice. What more can, must we do? In Luke 12:48, we have heard "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." Gone are the days, do it because this is what we do. Gone are the days, because I said so. Gone are the days, you don't need a reason, just do it. Gone are the days of private devotion and secret acts of mercy. Gone are the days of I worship in my heart and do not need to be part of a community.

More is demanded of us; more Prayer; and more overt acts of mercy and kindness are required. More advocacy for the widows and orphans, which is biblical speak for those outside the main stream, those on the margins.

It is a fact that a small group of dedicated people working towards the common good can make great and things happen that are sustained over long periods of time. We need to live our Catholic Christian identities out in the open. We need to publically speak up for the very teachings of Christ and his care of the poor, neglected, and oppressed. We need to hold those in the public eye accountable to the Good News of Love and Mercy.

Let the light of this Epiphany burst forth and radiate from each of us so that the world can know of the awesome, saving power of God's Love and Mercy and find peace.